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State Library Agencies as Sources of Pictorial Material For Social Studies

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STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES AS SOURCES OF PICTORIAL MATERIAL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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Where to secure pictorial illustrations to enrich the social studies is often a troublesome problem for teachers, especially for those located in small towns and rural areas. It is also a problem for curriculum workers in the organization of teaching materials. Knowing that some State library agencies furnish material of this kind to schools, the authors of this leaflet made an investigation by means of a questionnaire, in order to ascertain the extent of the practice.

A list of 103 libraries designated as "State" in the 1935 edition of the American Library Directory,[1] the collections of which seemed to the authors to cover fields of knowledge useful for the social studies, was compiled. Libraries marked "State" in the Directory include State libraries and commissions, libraries of other State departments, such as historical societies, and libraries of State institutions, such as schools of mines and experiment stations. A copy of the questionnaire was mailed to the librarian of each of the 103 libraries. Eighty-one replies were received.

Tabulation of the 81 replies shows that 29 agencies in 27 States lend pictorial material to schools. Twenty-four of these lend considerable material, and 5, while at present lending but little, indicate their interest in expanding the service. These 29 agencies and the kinds of material they furnish are given on pages 3–6. Three other agencies—the Arkansas Geological Survey Library, the Indiana Historical

[1] Published by R. R. Bowker Co., New York City.

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Society, and the Mississippi Library Commission—while not now lending any material are interested in doing so.

The kinds of material loaned by the 29 agencies are varied. They consist of mounted pictures, commercial collections (interpreted to mean collections of pictures), books and periodicals containing many pictures, stereoscopic views and stereoscopes, magazine and newspaper clippings, and photographs of pictorial material too valuable to lend.

In general, teachers and superintendents of schools may borrow material directly from the agencies. In California, the State library lends its material to other libraries which redistribute it to individuals.

No library requires a fee for the loan of its pictorial material, but in most cases borrowers are responsible for transportation costs. Three libraries—Louisiana Library Commission, Library Division of the Minnesota State Department of Education, and the Nebraska State Historical Society Library—report that transportation charges are for one way only.

A word should be said concerning the conclusiveness of this investigation. It is possible that some of the library agencies which did not answer the questionnaire do distribute pictorial material bearing on the social studies. Again, the wording of the questionnaire may have been such as failed to elicit all of the important facts relative to the service.

In general, the study indicates that it is worth while for teachers to call on the library agencies of their States for the pictorial material they desire. Libraries now lend material in more than half of the States.

Doubtless some library agencies which have not yet developed a service for the loan of such materials have failed to do so because they are unconvinced of teachers' needs for the service. Requests from teachers and superintendents should serve to indicate their needs. Since requests from groups are more effective in revealing needs than are those from individuals, teachers might discuss their problems in cooperative groups such as county or township teachers' association or similar organizations, and then present their requests through the chairmen of these groups.

A recent study on "Activities of State Visual Education Agencies in the United States" [2] reveals information supplementary to the present investigation. Among the various types of service investigated, State distribution of pictorial material (including at least stereographs, art prints, and mounted pictures) was found in 26 States. Of these visual education agencies, the one most often undertaking the distribution is the extension division of the State university or of the State college of agriculture. It is evident that different agencies, often in a single State, have pictorial material to lend. Teachers who do not know the name of the agency or agencies in their own State can find out by consulting their county, town, or State superintendent of schools, by asking the librarian of the local library, or by writing to the State library agency. Teachers particularly interested in local and State history may desire to write to their respective State historical societies for special materials.

LIBRARY AGENCIES FURNISHING PICTORIAL MATERIAL AND THE KINDS OF MATERIAL FURNISHED

1. California, Terminal Island—California State Fisheries Laboratory Library.
   Publications on California fish and fisheries, many of which are profusely illustrated.

2. ———, Sacramento—California State Library.
   Forty-six counties in California have county libraries which serve both schools and communities in rural areas and small towns. Most of these county libraries do extensive work in supplying schools with material for social studies. The State Library supplements the resources of all libraries of the State by lending them books and other materials. Loans are made to libraries, not to individuals. Many picture books and well illustrated magazines are available.

3. Colorado, Denver—Colorado State Library, Department of Education.
   Mounted picture and commercial collections.

4. Delaware, Dover—Delaware State Library Commission.
   Mounted picture and commercial collections.

5. Georgia, Atlanta—Department of Archives and History.
   Approximately 2,500 pictures including a wide range of subjects and types are available. Each picture is cataloged under the names of indi-

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[2] Dunn, Fannie W., *and* Schneider, Etta. Activities of State Visual Education Agencies in the United States. Educational Screen, April, May, June, 1935.

viduals or subjects (buildings, churches, and the like), as well as under types (ambrotype, charcoal, photograph, oil portrait). This collection is increasing constantly. During the past year, about 70 photographs and 2 lithographs were added. While the material is not loaned to individuals, photographic copies are available at cost upon request. There are many calls for this service, particularly for use in illustrating books and in deciding upon correct details for costumes.

6. Idaho, Boise—Idaho Free Traveling Library.

A beginning has been made in the collection of material for a picture file.

7. Illinois, Springfield—Illinois State Library.

Mounted picture collections, commercial collections, books with many pictures in them, periodicals containing many pictures, stereoscopic views and stereoscopes, pamphlets, newspaper and magazine clippings.

8. Indiana, Indianapolis—Indiana State Library.

Mounted picture collections, and books with many pictures in them.

9. Iowa, Des Moines—Iowa Library Commission.

Mounted picture collections, postal card collections, stereoscopic views, and stereoscopes.

10. Kansas, Topeka—Kansas State Historical Society Library.

The collections consist mostly of pictures of Kansans of more or less prominence, and of historical pictures of localities showing old and new buildings and historical sites. Since the library is a reference library the pictures are not loaned. Photographic copies are available upon request.

11. Kentucky, Frankfort—Kentucky Library Commission.

Pictorial illustrations in books, magazines, pamphlets, and clippings are available for inter-library loans. The pamphlets and clippings are in the information file which is a part of the library's individual reference and loan service. Scarcity of funds has made it impossible to build up a pictorial collection large enough to serve the entire State. It is hoped that an increase in appropriation will make it possible to enlarge this service.

12. Louisiana, Baton Rouge—Louisiana Library Commission.

Books and periodicals containing many pictures, magazine and newspaper clippings.

13. Michigan, Lansing—Michigan State Library.

Mounted pictures, newspaper and magazine clippings. Framed pictures are loaned to rural and small town schools to be hung upon the walls for the entire school year. Large unframed pictures are available for clubs and schools for 1 or 2 weeks. Small unframed pictures are loaned for 3 weeks with the privilege of renewal for an additional week.

14. Minnesota, St. Paul—Library Division, State Department of Education.

Mounted picture collections, and books and periodicals containing many pictures. An effort would be made to increase these services if there were more calls.

15. Missouri, Jefferson City—Missouri Library Commission.

Books with many pictures in them and stereoscopic views and stereoscopes.

16. Nebraska, Lincoln—Nebraska State Historical Society Library.
Historical negatives and photographs, and 1,100 lantern slides on western history (chiefly Nebraska) covering early explorations, Indian life, and other subjects are available; also pictures, museum specimens, and printed material.

17. New Hampshire, Concord—New Hampshire State Library.
The reference and teaching sets of fine arts material which the Carnegie Corporation of New York has assembled for use in secondary schools are circulated by the library; also magazine and newspaper clippings.

18. New Jersey, Trenton—New Jersey Public Library Commission.
Mounted picture collections, commercial collections, books and periodicals containing many pictures, and magazine and newspaper collections. Pictorial material for State-wide loans is borrowed by the New Jersey Public Library Commission from the Newark Public library and the New Jersey State Museum. A 14-page mimeographed circular entitled, "Exhibits in New Jersey Libraries Which May be Borrowed", indicates the wide variety of material available.

19. New York, Albany—New York State Library.
The New York State Library does an extensive business in lending books and other printed material to libraries. It has a small collection of pictures, chiefly of current notables usually clipped from magazines and newspapers which are loaned with debate and essay material, but this is a small part of the work of the library. The Division of Visual Instruction of the State Department of Education lends schools and libraries throughout the State, lantern slides, photographs, wall pictures, and other instructional material.

20. North Carolina, Raleigh—North Carolina Library Commission.
Museum prints of the Brown-Robertson Company of New York, books and periodicals containing many pictures, and newspaper and magazine clippings.

21. Ohio, Columbus—Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society Library.
Mounted picture collections.

22. ——— Ohio State Library.
Mounted picture collections, books and periodicals containing many pictures, stereoscopic views and stereoscopes, and magazine and newspaper clippings.

23. Oregon, Salem—Oregon State Library.
Mounted picture collections, and books and periodicals containing many pictures.

24. Pennsylvania, Harrisburg—Pennsylvania State Library.
Mounted picture collections, books and periodicals containing many pictures, and newspaper and magazine clippings.

25. South Dakota, Pierre—South Dakota Free Library Commission.
Pictorial material is now being collected for the purpose of circulation.

26. Vermont, Montpelier—Vermont Free Public Library Department, State Board of Education.
Mounted picture and commercial collections, books and magazines containing many pictures, and magazine and newspaper clippings.

27. Virginia, Richmond—Virginia State Library.
Books with many pictures in them.

28. Washington, Olympia—Washington State Library, State Department of Education.
Requests received by the library for specific picture material are met by sending books, magazines, and other available pictorial materials. One of the library's projects is the extension of its picture collection.

29. Wyoming, Cheyenne—Wyoming State Library.
Periodicals containing many pictures.

CURRICULUM CONTENT OF THE MATERIAL

One section of the questionnaire on which the librarians were requested to report comprised a list of social-studies topics. The librarians were asked to check those on which they have material. Sixteen of the questionnaires were returned with the topics checked as requested. In the following table the topics which were checked are indicated and arranged in blocks to show the frequency of the checking. Topics in the first block were each checked by 11 librarians; those in the second block by 10; and so on down to "Heating houses" in the last block, which was checked by only 1 librarian.

Although the indications of the table are by no means conclusive, they are interesting and suggestive. They show, moreover, that the topics on which the largest number of libraries have material are those which usually are included in traditional courses of study. Topics on which the fewest libraries have material are those which seldom are included in such courses. The matter of housing, for example, is looming large in newer social-studies curricula. Yet it seems to be less well represented in pictorial material than traditional topics like historical periods and foreign cultures.

TOPICS ON WHICH LIBRARIES REPORT PICTORIAL MATERIAL FOR LOAN

Topics	Libraries reporting (numbers below correspond to numbers assigned to libraries on pp. 3–6) [1]
	11 libraries
Africa: Customs and industries	3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Asiatic countries: Customs and industries.	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Colonial life	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Egyptian culture, ancient	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 22, 23, 24, 26.
European countries: Customs and industries.	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
National parks	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 22, 23, 24, 26.
South American countries	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Transportation	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26.
	10 libraries
Greek culture, ancient	4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Mexico: Customs and industries	3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Roman culture, ancient	4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
	9 libraries
Architecture of homes, past and present.	4, 7, 8, 14, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Bridges	3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Cotton raising	3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Forests and lumbering	3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26.
Furniture, styles and manufacture.	7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24.

[1] For example, number 3 in the first row of figures corresponds to the number 3 assigned to the Colorado State Library, Department of Education, on p. 3, and so on with the numbers that follow.

TOPICS ON WHICH LIBRARIES REPORT PICTORIAL MATERIAL FOR LOAN—Continued

Topics	Libraries reporting (numbers below correspond to numbers assigned to libraries on pp. 3–6)
	9 libraries
Manufacture of different articles.	3, 4, 7, 14, 17, 18, 22, 24, 26.
Natural scenery of different countries.	3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 18, 22, 24, 26.
	8 libraries
Coal mining	3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 24, 26.
Fisheries	1, 3, 4, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Gardening	4, 7, 8, 14, 17, 22, 24, 26.
Iron and steel, manufacture	3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 24, 26.
Rugs	4, 7, 8, 13, 17, 22, 24, 26.
Textiles, manufacture and design.	3, 4, 7, 17, 18, 22, 24, 26.
	7 libraries
Communication	3, 4, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Fruit growing	3, 4, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Leaders of today, pictures of	7, 13, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26.
	6 libraries
Animal industries	4, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Aztecs	4, 7, 8, 14, 24, 26.
Basketry	4, 7, 8, 22, 24, 26.
Far West, settlement	3, 7, 14, 16, 18, 22.
Glass manufacture and uses	7, 8, 14, 22, 23, 26.
Grain farming	4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 26.
Iron, mining	4, 7, 13, 14, 24, 26.
Mayas	7, 8, 14, 23, 24, 26.
Rice raising	3, 4, 7, 14, 24, 26.
Skyscrapers	4, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26.
Southwest, settlement	3, 7, 8, 14, 18, 22.
	5 libraries
City markets	3, 4, 7, 22, 26.
City parks	4, 7, 8, 22, 26.
Tapestries, Indian	3, 7, 8, 22, 24.

TOPICS ON WHICH LIBRARIES REPORT PICTORIAL MATERIAL FOR LOAN—Continued

Topics	Libraries reporting (numbers below correspond to numbers assigned to libraries on pp. 3–6)
	4 libraries
Housing problems	4, 7, 18, 22.
Lamps and candles	7, 8, 22, 26.
Quarries	3, 7, 14, 26.
	3 libraries
Children's games and activities	3, 7, 24.
City homes of poor	4, 7, 24.
City homes of well-to-do	4, 7, 24.
Electric lights	7, 8, 22.
Farm homes of well-to-do	4, 7, 24.
Hobbies	3, 7, 8.
School activities in different lands	3, 7, 14.
	2 libraries
Brickmaking	7, 14.
Farm homes of poor	4, 7.
	1 library
Heating houses	7.

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